

trary, the people at large throughout our confederacy being duly instructed in military tactics; there would be no difficulty in forming an army of quiet citizens of the most reliable materials, where the private soldier with his bayonet, would be equal to the chosen officer, with sword at his side. In the formation of such an army no body of men from the Easter Hemisphere, marshalled in their old accustomed mode of like numerical force, would be able to cope with us upon the battle field; no indeed, with citizen soldiery thus enlightened; our brave troops would as easily "brush away" foreign battalions, as Taylor did upon the plains of Palo Alto and Resaca Dela Palma, the vain glorions Mexicans from their supposed impreguable positions. Depend upon it, that in seasons of tranquility, with methodical collegiate acquirements. Our militia would be in possession of elementary means, they tallying with our national predilections; ever weilded by a peacefully republican State.

While volunteer regiments, perform their allotted duty, it is well known that district regiments will not turn out, the latter from the nature of the case, partake in no measure of the commendable spirit of the former; besides the district corps have none of the incentives to action, like volunteers, prompting to the performance of military duty, and what the laws demand of *all*, many disregard, and when required murmuringly pay in fines the forfeits of their own delinquency.

Many years ago, a Major General of North Carolina, recommended in the strongest terms an immediate repeal of the militia laws of said State; assigning as reasons therefor, that when he took command, as Major General, no officer felt more military spirit than he did; supported also, by a confident hope that he would be able to amend the system: but that after thirty years devotion and toil he was compelled to surrender the trust as a fruitless experiment, and with sorrow leave the system where he found, it feeble without character, and in need of every ingredient to make it otherwise—sustained all the while in this deplorable condition, at a cost in fines inflicted upon the people of \$70,000 per year, which fines were never applied to any useful purpose, or known how expended.

Our laws, as well as those in North Carolina, demand of its citizens manual—I should say, holiday labor, not dollars and cents,—if the laws be so disregarded, or evaded as to fill the regimental treasury, and do nothing more, the entire plan theoretically and practically becomes a burlesque of no ordinary kind, and, ought to call forth the execration of every one, who would scorn to pay a tax when productive of no possible good whatsoever.

While the old world, guided by past folly, prefer the turmoils and horrors of war to the sweets of peace, we upon this side the "wide ferry," must no longer omit placing ourselves in the best